

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses in humans caused by the presence of targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogens from the class consisting of *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in meat by inhibiting the ability of the immunogens to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the immunogens to multiply in the rumen or intestinal tracts of the food animals, said method comprising:

A. Inoculating female chickens, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with a particular targeted colony-forming illnesses-causing immunogen from the class consisting of *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*;

B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the eggs of the chickens of antibody to the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen, said antibody in the eggs including IgY immunoglobulins in the yolks of the eggs and IgM and IgA immunoglobulins in the albumin of the eggs;

C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the chickens;

D. Separating the entire contents of said harvested eggs from the shells;

E. Drying said separated entire contents of said eggs to provide a dried egg antibody product;

F. Mixing the resulting dried egg antibody product substantially uniformly through an animal feed or water; and

G. Supplying the resulting mixed dried egg antibody product and animal feed or water to food animals whereby the IgY immunoglobulins bind to the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen, said binding being assisted by the IgM and IgA immunoglobulins to inhibit to adherence of the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen in the intestinal tract of the food animals thereby reducing or eliminating the incidence of food borne illnesses in humans caused by the

presence of the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen in meat.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses in humans caused by the presence of a targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogens immunogen from the class consisting of *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in meat by inhibiting the ability of the immunogens immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the immunogens immunogen to multiply in the rumen or intestinal tracts of the food animals, said method comprising:

A. Inoculating female chickens, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with a particular targeted colony-forming illnesses-causing immunogen from the class consisting of *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*;

B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the eggs of the chickens of antibody to the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen, said antibody in the eggs including IgY immunoglobulins in the yolks of the eggs and IgM and IgA immunoglobulins in the albumin of the eggs;

C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the chickens;

D. Separating the entire contents of said harvested eggs from the shells;

E. Drying said separated entire contents of said eggs to provide a dried egg antibody

product;

F. Providing a dry feed carrier;

G. Coating the dry feed carrier with said egg antibody product;

H. Mixing the resulting dry feed carrier coated with the dried egg antibody product

substantially uniformly through an animal feed or water; and

I. Supplying the resulting mixed dry feed carrier coated with dried egg antibody product and

animal feed or water to food animals whereby the IgY immunoglobulins bind to the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen, said binding being assisted by the IgM and IgA immunoglobulins to inhibit adherence of the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen in the intestinal tract of the food animals thereby reducing or eliminating the incidence of food borne illnesses in humans caused by the presence of the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen in meat.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses in humans caused by the presence of a colony-forming illness-causing *E. coli* immunogen in meat by inhibiting the ability of the *E. coli* immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the *E. coli* immunogen to multiply in the rumen or intestinal tracts of the food animals, said method comprising:

A. Inoculating female chickens, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with the illness-causing *E. coli* immunogen;

B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the eggs of the chickens of antibody to the *E. coli* immunogen, said antibody in the eggs including IgY immunoglobulins in the yolks of the eggs and IgM and IgA immunoglobulins in the albumin of the eggs;

C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the chickens;

D. Separating the entire contents of said harvested eggs from the shells;

E. Drying said separated entire contents of said eggs to provide a dried egg antibody product;

F. Mixing the resulting dried egg antibody product substantially uniformly through an animal feed or water; and

G. Supplying the resulting mixed dried egg antibody product and animal feed or water to food animals whereby the IgY immunoglobulins bind to *E. coli* immunogen, said binding being

assisted by the IgM and IgA immunoglobulins to inhibit adherence of the *E. coli* immunogen in the intestinal tract of the food animals thereby reducing or eliminating the incidence of food borne illnesses in humans caused by the presence of *E. coli* immunogen in meat.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5 including: providing a dry feed carrier, said drying of the antibody-containing contents of said eggs is achieved by coating the dry feed carrier with said separated antibody-containing contents of said eggs.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses in humans caused by the presence of a colony-forming illness-causing *Listeria* immunogen in meat by inhibiting the ability of the *Listeria* immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the *Listeria* immunogen to multiply in the rumen or intestinal tracts of the food animals, said method comprising:

- A. Inoculating female chickens, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with the illness-causing *Listeria* immunogen;
- B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the eggs of the chickens of antibody to the *Listeria* immunogen, said antibody in the eggs including IgY immunoglobulins in the yolks of the eggs and IgM and IgA immunoglobulins in the albumin of the eggs;
- C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the chickens;
- D. Separating the entire contents of said harvested eggs from the shells;
- E. Drying said separated entire contents of said eggs to provide a dried egg antibody product;
- F. Distributing the resulting dried egg antibody product substantially uniformly

through an animal feed or water; and

G. Supplying the resulting mixed dried egg antibody product and animal feed or water to food animals whereby the IgY immunoglobulins bind to the *Listeria* immunogen, said binding being assisted by the IgM and IgA immunoglobulins to inhibit adherence of the *Listeria* immunogen in the intestinal tract of the food animals thereby reducing or eliminating the incidence of food borne illnesses in humans caused by the presence of *Listeria* immunogen in meat.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 8 including: providing a dry feed carrier, said drying of the antibody-containing contents of said eggs is achieved by coating the dry feed carrier with said separated antibody-containing contents of said eggs.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses in humans caused by the presence of a colony-forming illness-causing *Salmonella* immunogen in meat by inhibiting the ability of the *Salmonella* immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the *Salmonella* immunogen to multiply in the rumen or intestinal tracts of the food animals, said method comprising:

A. Inoculating female chickens, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with the illness-causing *Salmonella* immunogen;

B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the eggs of the chickens of antibody to the *Salmonella* immunogen, said antibody in the eggs including IgY immunoglobulins in the yolks of the eggs and IgM and IgA immunoglobulins in the albumin of the eggs;

C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the chickens;

D. Separating the entire contents of said harvested eggs from the shells;

E. Drying said separated entire contents of said eggs to provide a dried egg antibody product;

F. Mixing the resulting dried egg antibody product substantially uniformly through an animal feed or water; and

G. -Supplying the resulting mixed dried egg antibody product and animal feed or water to food animals whereby the IgY immunoglobulins bind to the *Salmonella* immunogen, said binding being assisted by the IgM and IgA immunoglobulins to inhibit adherence of the *Salmonella* immunogen in the intestinal tract of the food animals thereby reducing or eliminating the incidence of food borne illnesses in humans caused by the presence of *Salmonella* immunogen in meat.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 11 including: providing a dry feed carrier, said drying of the antibody-containing contents of said eggs is achieved by coating the dry feed carrier with said separated antibody-containing contents of said eggs.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses in humans caused by the presence of a colony-forming illness-causing *Campylobacter* immunogen in meat by inhibiting the ability of the *Campylobacter* immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the *Campylobacter* immunogen to multiply in the rumen or intestinal tracts of the food animals, said method comprising:

A. Inoculating female chickens, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with the illness-causing *Campylobacter* immunogen;

B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the eggs of the chickens of antibody to the *Campylobacter* immunogen, said antibody in the eggs including IgY

immunoglobulins in the yolks of the eggs and IgM and IgA immunoglobulins in the albumin of the eggs;

- C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the chickens;
- D. Separating the entire contents of said harvested eggs from the shells;
- E. Drying said separated entire contents of said eggs to provide a dried egg antibody

product;

F. Mixing the resulting dried egg antibody product substantially uniformly through an animal feed or water; and

G. Supplying the resulting mixed dried egg antibody product and animal feed or water to food animals whereby the IgY immunoglobulins bind to the *Campylobacter* immunogen, said binding being assisted by the IgM and IgA immunoglobulins to inhibit adherence of the *Campylobacter* immunogen in the intestinal tract of the food animals thereby reducing or eliminating the incidence of food borne illnesses in humans caused by the presence of *Campylobacter* immunogen in meat.

15. (Original) The method according to Claim 14 including: providing a dry feed carrier, said drying of the antibody-containing contents of said eggs is achieved by coating the dry feed carrier with said separated antibody-containing contents of said eggs.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing or eliminating the incidence of illnesses in humans caused by the presence of a targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogens immunogen from the class consisting of *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in meat by inhibiting the ability of the immunogens immunogen to adhere to the rumen or intestinal tracts of food animals to reduce the ability of the immunogens immunogen to multiply in the rumen or intestinal tracts of *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*, said method comprising:

- A. Inoculating female chickens, in or about to reach their egg laying age, with a particular targeted colony-forming illnesses-causing immunogen from the class consisting of *E. coli*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*;
- B. Allowing a period of time sufficient to permit the production in the eggs of the chickens of antibody to the targeted immunogen, said antibody in the eggs including IgY immunoglobulins in the yolks of the eggs and IgM and IgA immunoglobulins in the albumin of the eggs;
- C. Harvesting the eggs laid by the chickens;
- D. Separating the entire contents of said harvested eggs from the shells;
- E. Providing a dry feed carrier material;
- F. Coating said dry feed carrier material with the separated entire contents of said harvested eggs;
- G. Mixing said carrier material coated with the separated entire contents of said harvested eggs substantially uniformly in animal feed; and
- H. Supplying the resulting mixed dry carrier material coated with the separated entire contents of said harvested eggs and animal feed to food animals whereby the IgY immunoglobulins bind to the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen, said binding being assisted by the IgM and IgA immunoglobulins to inhibit adherence of the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen in the rumen or intestinal tracts of the food animals thereby reducing or eliminating the incidence of food borne illnesses in humans caused by the presence of the targeted colony-forming illness-causing immunogen in meat.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17 wherein: providing a dry feed carrier material from a group of materials including soybean hulls, rice hulls, corn, cottonseed hulls, distilled dried grains and beet pulp.

19. (Canceled).